

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 122 (Senators Collins and Craig)
(Commission to Revise the Election Code)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Election Laws - Recount - Waiver of Cost

This amended bill adds a third exception to the requirement that petitioners for an election recount are liable for the costs of the recount. Specifically, if the margin of difference between the winning candidate and losing candidate is 0.1% or less, then the cost of the recount is paid by the county in which the recount is held. In the case of a question, if the margin of difference between the number of votes cast for and the number of votes cast against the question is .01% or less, then the cost of the recount is paid by the county. Under current law, the petitioner for an election recount is not responsible for the cost of a recount only if the outcome of the election is changed or the petitioner has gained 2% or more of the total votes cast in all precincts being recounted.

This bill is effective January 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any costs associated with a recount would be borne by the county in which the recount is held.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in local expenditures. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: This bill does not directly affect small businesses.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Local expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount depending upon the number of petitions for recounts, the type of voting system used by the county, the number of precincts to be counted, and the number of voters within a precinct. Any impact on expenditures of local boards of elections as a result of this bill are assumed to be minimal due to the infrequency of petitions for recounts and the requirement of this bill that the margin of difference between the winning candidate and losing candidate be 0.1% or less.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections, Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 1998
nncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 20, 1998

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